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Jean M. Morningstar  
President

**Written Testimony of  
Jean Morningstar, President  
University Health Professionals, AFT Local 3837, AFL-CIO**

**Re: Nomination of Donald D. DeFronzo  
To Be Commissioner of Administrative Services  
Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee  
January 20, 2011**

University Health Professionals, AFT Local 3837 is a labor union representing more than 2,500 professional non-faculty employees at the University of Connecticut Health Center. As President, it is my honor to submit these remarks in support of Senator Don DeFronzo's nomination to be Commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services.

Senator Looney, Representative Janowski and members of the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee are surely aware of the financial challenges faced by the University of Connecticut Health Center in recent years. Efforts over the last four years have been redoubled to craft a solution that would chart a course of financial stability for the Health Center without destabilizing the relationships with Hartford Hospital, St. Francis Hospital, Connecticut Children's Medical Center, Bristol Hospital and other institutions in the region. Last spring the General Assembly approved a groundbreaking proposal to create a regional bioscience initiative and a renewal of John Dempsey Hospital's physical plant. None of this would have happened without the dedicated leadership of Senator Don DeFronzo.

UConn Health Center is located in Senator DeFronzo's former legislative district; but that is not the only reason he devoted his energies to the issue. Senator DeFronzo cares about the people who receive care and those who deliver it at UConn Health Center. He understands that it is not just a page in the state budget, but a quality investment and community institution that does far more than prepare physicians and dentists. He wasn't willing to negotiate that asset away or allow it to languish. He stopped a proposed merger that would have had destabilizing impacts on the community, the workforce and state taxpayers. Instead, he helped to broker a forward thinking initiative that brought all stakeholders together.

Senator DeFronzo is a listener, an intellect and a leader with great vision. His work ethic is unparalleled among his colleagues and though he strives for consensus, he is not afraid to take a stand when necessary. He delves into details and doesn't succumb to rhetoric. He is among the most dedicated of public servants; and Governor Malloy has made an excellent choice by including him in his administration. On behalf of the members of University Health Professionals, I fully support his nomination and urge the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee to act favorably on it as quickly as possible.

Thank you.

Jean M. Morningstar  
UHP President